



SIERRA LEONE

FACTSHEET

March 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

Livelihoods support to refugees enhanced.

Workshop on awareness raising on Statelessness

Legal literacy training for refugees and host populations.

Population of concern

A total of 777 Persons are of concern, of which 760 are Refugees and 17 Asylum Seekers

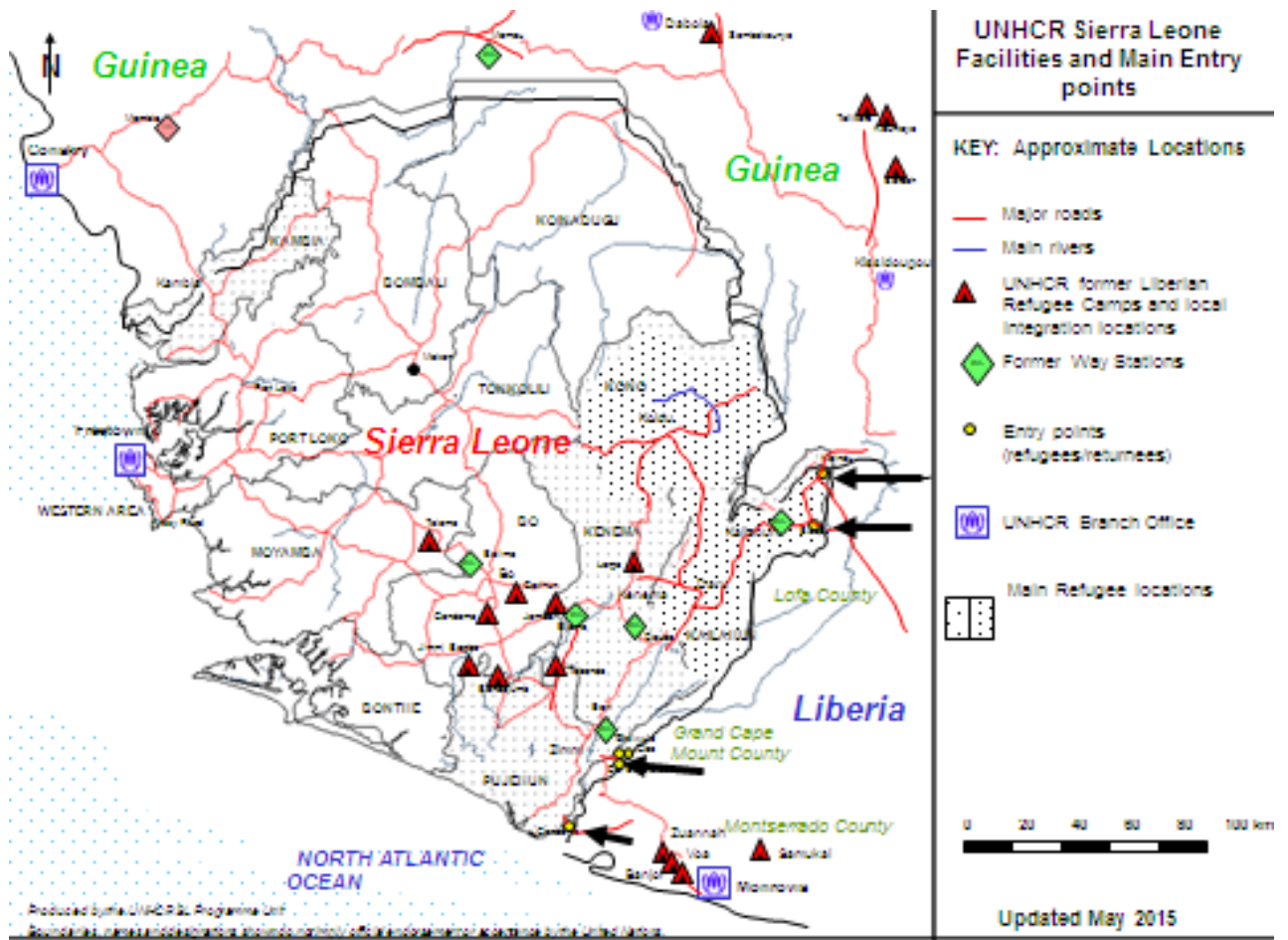
By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Liberia	730
Chad	0
Ivory Coast	23
Mali	4
Sudan	15
Eritrea	0
Nigeria	0
Ghana	0
Others	5
Total	777

Funding

USD 972,528 requested

Funded	Gap
421,539	550,989



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- **Describe, in a few words, UNHCR's involvement in coordination mechanisms, including in sector groups, working groups and clusters.**
- UNHCR coordinates all refugee activities. In 2016 UNHCR works with only 1 implementing partner—the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) implementing mainly Protection and livelihoods activities.
- UNHCR is a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and regularly attends UNCT weekly meeting where UN activities, including implementation of the UNDAF and GoSL Ebola Recovery Plans are discussed. The Deputies Group which forms part of the UNCT has been working on the report on millennium development goals (MDGs) leading to the development of sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Partnerships to improve the protection environment are being enhanced with relevant actors including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Human Rights Commission, and local authorities. Information sharing mechanisms and systems are strengthened and supported through the aforementioned including the UN Communications Group. The capacity of the relevant Government institutions is being strengthened to respond adequately to refugee protection issues. Capacity of relevant government stakeholders, civil society and partners is being built and strengthened. In addition, UNHCR is working closely with the Secretariat of the National Refugee Authority located within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the review of the 2007 Refugee Protection Act; accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions and to ensure government takes full responsibility of its National Refugee Structures in light of UNHCR's exit.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- **Describe main activities in the country and their impact on the population.**
- Capacity building:
 - In January 2016, UNHCR in collaboration with its Partners (Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Commission for Social Action – NaCSA and Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone) organized a one-day workshop on Statelessness for the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights to raise awareness on the issue of statelessness and advocate for accession to both 1954 and 1961 Conventions. During the plenary discussions, one of the issues identified by the Parliamentarians was that about 65% of the Sierra Leonean Population is either without birth certificate or national identity card. This they said was said due to a centralized system and lack of access especially for people in the rural locations.
 - Following agitations and threats from some former Liberian refugees (“Undecided group”), coupled with pressure from the media, UNHCR in collaboration with its government partner NaCSA organized a one-day workshop for both print and electronic media practitioners in Freetown to sensitize them on International Refugee Protection and UNHCR's operation in Sierra Leone as well as to build partnership with the media to enable them to disseminate objective information to the public.
 - In commemoration of the first anniversary of the Abidjan Declaration on Statelessness, UNHCR in collaboration with the government lead Ministry, Internal Affairs organized the following to raise awareness on the issue and seek support in the campaign to eradicate statelessness by 2024: a radio discussion involving representatives from the following: Constitutional Review Committee; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Human Rights Commission, NaCSA and UNHCR; a press conference led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in collaboration with other partners; screening on statelessness movies on public screens in strategic locations in Freetown; a national statement delivered by the Minister of Internal Affairs on both print and electronic media; dissemination of “I belong” sign-up cards to various personalities including ministers, parliamentarians, university students, civil society groups and UNCT; distribution of t-shirts and caps to various groups including government line ministries, departments and agencies, market women; university students, UNCT, parliament, etc. for awareness and visibility. These activities have gained momentum on the issue of statelessness in Freetown especially among key stakeholders.
- **Describe UNHCR's main activities in the country and their impact on the population.**

- **Durable solutions:**

- Follow-ups are being made with BO Monrovia on outstanding passports for locally integrated passport applicants as well as a proposed mission of the Liberian Passport authorities to Sierra Leone. Information sharing continues with the residual refugee population on local integration as a durable solution feasible to refugees in Sierra Leone. In implementing local integration, a total of 877 integrated Liberians have received their Liberian national passports as well as residence permit in Sierra Leone. While 117 passports have not been collected and these will be returned to the authorities through BO Monrovia.
- Following engagement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs through its National Registration Secretariat, an agreement has been reached with UNHCR for provision of identity cards to refugees in Sierra Leone. Modalities are being put in place for issuance with the relevant actors. This would facilitate refugees' access to services as well as increase their physical protection in the country, especially in lieu of increased security threats and increased security screening in various locations in the country.

- **Describe UNHCR's main activities in the country and their impact on the population.**

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance: In 2016, UNHCR continues with the livelihoods assistance leading to self-reliance mainly for exempted refugees and other nationalities. A total of 444 refugees and other nationalities are expected to benefit from the livelihoods support. This livelihoods project contributes to the economic integration of refugees into their respective host communities by increasing their income generation capacities leading to self-reliance.

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Logistics: In 2016, 2 vehicles have been provided on loan to the implementing partner during the period under review. Moreover, financial support has been provided to cover the running and maintenance costs of the vehicles on loan to the implementing partner. Preparations are on-going for disposal of 12 vehicles as per GFM guidelines on vehicle usage and disposal.

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